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## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image-recording, hydrophilic colorant, represented by the following formula (1):

[organic pigment] - [linking group]

- [hydrophilic compound] (1)

wherein said [organic pigment] is a hydrophobic pigment, having no hydrophilic group by itself, said [linking group] is a group linking said [organic pigment] and said [hydrophilic compound] with each other and blocking an effect of said [hydrophilic compound] on said [organic pigment], and said [hydrophilic compound] is an anionic, cationic and/or nonionic, hydrophilic compound.

Claim 2 (Original): The hydrophilic colorant according to claim 1, wherein said hydrophobic pigment is selected from the group consisting of phthalocyanine, anthraquinone, perylene, perinone, dioxazine, quinacridone, diketopyrrolopyrole, indigo thioindigo, quinophthalone, isoindolinone, metal complex, azo, high-molecular azo, azomethine-containing azo, and azomethine pigments.

Claim 3 (Original): The hydrophilic colorant according to claim 1, wherein said linking group is selected from the group consisting of an alkylene group, s-triazinyl group, s-triazinyl-2,4-diamino group, s-triazinyl-2,4-dioxy group, s-triazinyl-2-amino-4-oxy group, s-triazinyl-2,4-diaminoalkyl group, and s-triazinyl-2-aminoalkyl-4-oxy group.

Claim 4 (Original): The hydrophilic colorant according to claim 1, which is represented by the following formula (2):

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$$P \xrightarrow{\text{CH}_2 \text{NHOC}} \xrightarrow{\text{COOM}} COOM$$

wherein P represents an organic pigment molecule, M represents a hydrogen atom, alkali metal, ammonium group, (lower alkyl)ammonium group or (lower alkanol)ammonium group, and n stands for 1 to 4.

Claim 5 (Original): The hydrophilic colorant according to claim 1, which is represented by the following formula (3):

$$P \xrightarrow{\text{CH}_2 \text{NH}} \xrightarrow{\text{N}} \xrightarrow{\text{N}} \xrightarrow{\text{NHCH (COOM)}_2}$$

$$N \xrightarrow{\text{N}} \xrightarrow{\text{N}}$$

wherein P represents an organic pigment molecule, M represents a hydrogen atom, alkali metal, ammonium group, (lower alkyl)ammonium group or (lower alkanol)ammonium group, and n stands for 1 to 4.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An image-recording, water-based coloring composition, comprising the hydrophilic colorant according to claim 1 and an aqueous medium.

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Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An image-recording method, comprising forming an image with a composition, which comprises using the hydrophilic colorant according to claim 1 or the water-based coloring composition according to claim 6.

Claim 8 (Original): An image-recorded medium obtained by the image-recording method according to claim 7.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An image-recording system, comprising the hydrophilic colorant according to claim 1, or the water based coloring composition according to claim 6 loaded as an image-recording material therein.

Claim 10 (Original): An image-recording system according to claim 9, which is an inkjet printer.

Claim 11 (New): An image-recording method, comprising forming an image with a composition, which comprises the water-based coloring composition according to claim 6.

Claim 12 (New): An image-recorded medium obtained by the image-recording method according to claim 11.

Claim 13 (New): An image-recording system, comprising the water-based coloring composition according to claim 6, loaded as an image-recording material therein.

Claim 14 (New): An image-recording system according to claim 13, which is an inkjet printer.